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 SPECIAL MID-SEASON CROP REPORT

NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

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Min. Met. S.
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July 20, 1917.

NOTE: The following report is a summary of telegrams filed on the night of July 19th and received in Minneapolis the morning of July 20th, from reliable authorities selected by counties and subdivisions, who were asked to devote special attention during the early part of the week to the question of obtaining the best and most reliable information as to the exact status of the crop. The general summary herewith given is based on these telegrams, following which the telegrams themselves are condensed and given by states.

GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS. On the basis of the outlook at this date, the grain crop in northwestern Minnesota will be somewhat less than normal, considerably less than normal in western North Dakota and the greater part of eastern Montana, and less than an average crop in the western half of South Dakota, due to continued dry weather during July up to this date, and to high temperatures, especially in the western part of the district. The western Montana crop will also be unsatisfactory.

The central and southern portion of Minnesota, the eastern portion of South Dakota, and the portion of Wisconsin within this District are in much better shape. From a production standpoint, the western half of the district will produce little more than half an average crop, while the eastern half of the district will average up well with a normal year. From the money standpoint farmers will not fare badly, since in the areas where they will harvest only half a crop, they will in all probability receive better than twice what has been a good price in former years, and will have the advantage of less expense in harvesting. It is apparent that since the first of the month, damage in the western half of the district has been slowly increasing. The estimates at this date are that North Dakota will harvest an average of seven bushels of wheat as compared with twelve in a good crop year. Loss of production in the portions of Montana that have suffered injury is somewhat more severe.

In areas where small grain has been damaged, corn has also suffered, although much of it especially with rain, will provide fodder, of which there is a severe shortage. In the eastern half of the district, including eastern South Dakota and part of eastern North Dakota, the corn outlook is favorable.

The unfavorable element in the present situation is the seriousness of the loss of prospective crop production in a year when there is an urgent demand for heavy supplies of food stuffs. It is improbable that this loss will react unfavorably upon business, unless further damage should occur. On account of the very spotted conditions in the western half of the district, there will be here and there localities where the crop will be practically a failure and where the farmers will be pinched as a consequence.

Throughout the western half of the district, there is a shortage of wild hay, and pasturage, offset in some degree by the manner in which alfalfa is resisting the dry weather.

The urgent need at the present time is that of wide spread soaking rains. The crop outlook indicated on this date would be very

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considerably improved if North and South Dakota and Montana can have adequate moisture within the coming week or ten days. This is particularly true of the flax crop, which at this date is promising but which will suffer severely if rains do not come. Since July 1st the rains west of the Minnesota Line have been local, and there are localities which for thirty days have had no moisture at all. In the Northwest, there are usually rains during the midsummer period and it is still probable that during the last ten days of the month the needed moisture may be obtained. The reports indicate that except where there has been severe injury, the quality of the grain crops will be good.

The conditions indicated in the reports suggest that especial attention should be given at this time to preventing the sale of young stock on account of the feed situation. Timely rains will undoubtedly increase the amount of fodder in the district, and farmers will be justified in holding their stock until there is evidence that there will not be sufficient winter feed on which to carry them over.

Reports by districts are as follows:

NORTHERN MICHIGAN -- Conditions generally favorable.

WISCONSIN -- Present outlook for potatoes good. Grain crops in satisfactory condition. Corn promises good crop.

MINNESOTA

Central and Southern Red River Valley District -- Wheat about 75% of good average crop, oats 80%, barley 85%, rye 90%, flax 100%, potatoes 100%. Corn needs growing weather to mature.

Northern Red River Valley District -- Sufficient moisture to mature early grains. Present outlook indicates 12 bushels wheat, 25 bushels barley, 35 bushels oats. Yield somewhat reduced on account of early drouth.

West central Minnesota -- Grain crops promise average yields. Corn 2 weeks late, but in good condition. Wheat and oats especially good. Flax requires more rain. Hay crop good quality, but light in yield.

Wilkin, Ottertail, Traverse, Grant and Douglas Counties -- Dry weather has damaged all grain crops. With favorable weather, wheat, oats, barley will show about half an average good crop. Corn and potatoes are doing well. Hay is about 65% of an average crop and the pastures need rain very much.

Central Minnesota -- Conditions generally are very good. Corn is making good progress.

Southern Minnesota -- Corn is advancing rapidly under influence of warmer weather, and good average crops are in prospect.

NORTH DAKOTA.

Dickey, Sargent and Lamoure Counties -- Crop is very spotted. Some fields will yield as high as 20 bushels, while other fields as low as three bushels. With good filling weather Lamoure and Ransom Counties will average possible 8 bushels of wheat. Oats and barley are poor. Corn backward. Some parts of this territory have had showers, but good soaking rains are much needed.

Cass, Trail, Barnes, Richland, Sargent and Ransom Co. - Wheat will average about 11 bus. Oats about one-half a crop or 20 bus. barley 15 to 18 bus. Flax is very promising, but too early to determine what yield will be. Winter rye should average 14 bu. Hay is light, about one-half to two-thirds of a normal crop. Potatoes promise well. Quality of all grains promises to be excellent.

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Steele, Griggs, Nelson, Grand Forks, Walsh and Pembina Counties -- Wheat will average 12 to 13 bushels. More rain is needed, but conditions are otherwise favorable.

Pembina, Cavalier, Towner and Rolette Counties -- Wheat will average $9\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre, or about 60% of normal crop. Rye about half a crop. Oats uncertain, probably about half a crop. Late barley possibly 20 bushels. Flax generally good. Pembina and Cavalier Counties will average 12 bushels of wheat Towner about $10\frac{1}{2}$, and Rolette about 8. Chief damage caused by drought, with late frosts second in importance. Rolette County has had hail damage. An area of 6 miles square in Cavalier County, was hailed out yesterday. In this district, except northern part of Towner County, there is practically enough moisture to insure proper filling. Crop is from 7 to 12 days late.

Benson, Eddy, Nelson and Ramsey Counties -- Small grains will average about 50 percent of good normal crop.

Barnes County -- Present outlook is for about 10 bushels of wheat, oats 25 to 30 bushels, flax full average crop, rye 5 to 10 bushels. Hay crop poor and feed scarce. Corn is very late, and much of it promises nothing but fodder.

Wells, Eddy, Foster, Benson, Pierce and McKenzie Counties-- wheat will average about half a crop, or from 5 to 6 bushels. It has been damaged through lack of moisture. Dividing line seems to be about at Harvey to the north, including the entire lower half of Saskatchewan crops are poor. South and southeast each mile seems to get a little better. The eastern part of Wells, Foster and Eddy Counties will get fair crops. Some farmers are cutting old grass for feed.

Ward, Mountrail, Burke, Renville, Bottineau and McKenzie Counties -- With good weather conditions from now on, the crop will be about one-third of good normal average. Wheat 4 to 5 bushels, rye 5 to 6 bushels. Hay and feed crop severely damaged. Chief damage to grain is from continuous dry weather, although late frosts also injured crop prospect.

Bowman, Billings, Morton, Hettinger, Sioux, Stark, Slope and Adams Counties -- Crops very spotted. With rain within a reasonable time many fields will give an average of 7 bushels of wheat. Poorer fields show little hope of improvement.

Stark, Dunn, Mercer, McKenzie and Oliver Counties -- Crop outlook unfavorable. Wheat, oats, hay and flax about 40 percent of average crop. Corn and potatoes about 80 per cent. Good rains at this time would increase this average from 20 to 30%.

Golden Valley, Billings, and McKenzie Counties -- No rains since June 20th. Half of our crop is winter wheat, and it is problematical how long it can stand the drouth. Spring wheat is practically burnt up. With timely rains, however, a bumper crop of flax is in prospect. Prospects of other grains very unfavorable. Chief damage this district has occurred within last two weeks.

Williams, Divide, Burke, Mountrail, Williams and Divide Counties are fair. Wheat in Williams County about 10 bushels. Divide County 9 bushels. Flax looks good and may mature into a fair crop. Oats and barley will be light. Hay crop very short.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The S.E. quarter of South Dakota is in very good shape, and outlook for all small grains is good. Corn is from 10 days to 2 weeks

late, but promises well, while no damage has yet occurred from drouth. Rains would be very timely, and would further improve the outlook.

Chamberlain and lower Misssouri River Country.-- Good yields of small grains are almost sure and promise to be as much as we have had for some years. Wheat will average better than 15 bushels. Corn very promising, but all crops will need rain very shortly.

Southwestern counties -- Spring wheat is promising, except in small areas which have been missed by local rains. Corn is late, but growing fast. Rye promises better than an average crop. Good crop of oats and barley is practically assured. First crop of alfalfa gave a good yield.

South Dakota east of Mitchell, Huron and Redfield -- Average yield of wheat probably 15 bushels. Oats 40, barley 40, and a very good crop Harvest of barley has begun. Wheat and oats are filling well, but in few localities, rain is needed. Corn is good color, and making rapid growth.

Northeastern Counties -- Wheat promises from 10 to 15 bushels. Corn is backward. All crops look promising except that black rust has appeared in limited area near Aberdeen.

Northwestern South Dakota -- Crop outlook fair.

MONTANA.

Reports indicate that Montana conditions are very spotted. The extreme northeastern counties, including Sheridan and Richland, are in good shape. Northern counties along the Canadian border are very poor. Valley County will average about 4 bushels of wheat. Oats very light. Hay crop nearly a failure. Alfalfa short crop, and outlook for flax better. Same conditions practically are true of Dawson and Richland Counties.

Blaine and Phillips Counties outside of Milk River Valley -- Reports are that crops are practically a failure from drouth.

Dawson, Richland, Prairie, Fallon and Wibaux Counties -- show better than 40% of crop of wheat, oats 45% and flax 50%, with acreage of flax twice that of last year. Potatoes promise well. Corn prospects are good. West half of Dawson county is failure.

Fergus County -- Reports indicate about half crop if rains come within ten days.

Yellowstone, Bighorn, Stillwater, Sweetgrass and Mussellshell Counties show poor outlook, with rains badly needed. Winter wheat about 75% of normal crop, spring wheat 30%, oats 40%, sugar beets 60%, forage crops poor. If rain does not come this week, these estimates will be further reduced.

Toole and Teton Counties do not look for more than 25% of normal crop, except that wheat on summer fallowing and early seeding is still fairly good.

Custer and Prairie Counties have 35% increase in acreage and report present outlook for about half a crop.

Hill and Blaine Counties report wheat on summer fallowed ground will make about half a crop.

Choteau County reports severe damage, with yields of about one fourth of average crop for all grains. Temperatures for last ten days have been high.

Cascade, Lewis & Clark and Meagher Counties report winter wheat will average about 40% of normal crop, spring wheat about 25%, while hay crop is about 25% short.

Northwestern Montana reports severe lack of moisture and hot winds. Present outlook will be for not more than 65% of average crop.